

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 03172 091823Z
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, SCUL, HU
SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN MEDIA REACTION TO THE DEATH OF POPE PAUL VI

1. ALL MAJOR HUNGARIAN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED THE NEWS STORY OF POPE PAUL VI'S DEATH IN DETAIL. IN ADDITION, THE HUNGARIAN BENCH OF BISHOPS' NEWSPAPER, MAGYAR KURIR, CARRIED A DETAILED OBITUARY WHICH CONCENTRATED ON THE LATE POPE'S ROLE WITH REGARD TO HUNGARIAN CATHOLICS. IT INCLUDED REFERENCES TO POPE PAUL THAT "...IT WAS DURING HIS PAPACY THAT TALKS BEGAN AND BORE FRUIT..." AND "...THE COMPLETION OF THE HUNGARIAN HIERARCHY WAS A RESULT OF HIS CLEARSIGHTEDNESS..." IT ALSO MENTIONED THAT, "HE BELIEVED THAT PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT WORLD OUTLOOKS CAN MEET AND DISCUSS TOGETHER QUESTIONS THAT CONCERN BOTH THE FAITHFUL AND NONBELIEVERS..."

2. NEPSZABADSAG ALSO COMMENTED IN AN EDITORIAL ON AUGUST 8. THE HSWP ORGAN SAID THAT "THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LATE POPE PAUL VI WERE MARKED BY THE SAME SUSCEPTIBILITY TO REALITIES OF HIS AGE AS WAS THE CASE WITH HIS PREDECESSOR JOHN XXIII." NEPSZABADSAG CONTINUED THE EDITORIAL LAUDING POPE PAUL FOR HIS "CAUTIOUSLY INNOVATIVE" ACTIVITIES, AND FOR RECEIVING KADAR AT THE VATICAN FOR "A MEMORABLE VISIT".

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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 03172 091823Z

3. MAGYAR NEMZET ALSO COMMENTED THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL COURTESIES EXTENDED TO PERSONS OF THE RANK OF KADAR, POPE PAUL UNEXPECTEDLY PRODUCED A SPEECH OF WELCOME IN WHICH HE GREETED THE HUNGARIAN PARTY'S FIRST SECRETARY WITH EXTREMELY WARM WORDS, PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST STATE AND THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

COMMENT: THE POSITIVE TONE IN THE HUNGARIAN MEDIA'S
COMMENTARY REFLECTS THE GOOD RELATIONS WHICH EXIST
BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND HUNGARY. IT ALSO REFLECTS THE
RECOGNITION THAT IT WAS POPE PAUL WHO PERSUADED CARDINAL
MINSZENTY TO LEAVE HUNGARY, WHICH BEGAN THE PROCESS OF
IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND HUNGARY.
KAISER

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